



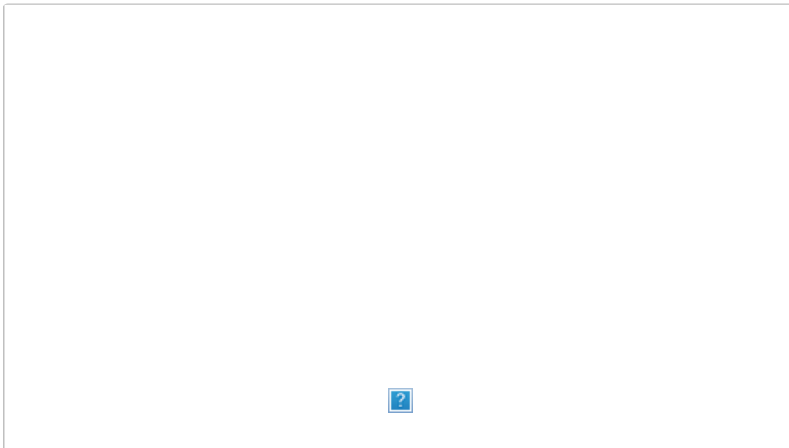
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HOLLYWOOD

Cannes Film Festival bars Russian journos, to screen documentary on Russia-Ukraine war by slain Lithuanian director

Cannes Film Festival is making its stance on the Russian invasion of Ukraine well known. After banning Russian films and journalists, it has now announced the screening of a film by Mantas Kvedaravičius, the filmmaker allegedly killed by Russian forces in Ukraine last month.



Mantas Kvedaravičius was allegedly killed by Russian forces last month. His documentary on the war in Ukraine will be screened at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival.

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By [Gautaman Bhaskaran](#)

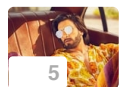
The [Cannes Film Festival](#) has always been political, never losing an

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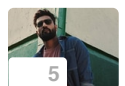
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opportunity to make a statement on the affairs of the State. When Iran banned moviemaker Jafar Panahi from leaving his country, his work, *Three Faces*, which premiered at the Festival, was welcomed with a standing ovation and an empty chair was placed symbolically on the stage. The message was loud and clear, and this year Cannes has underlined its acute displeasure over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. **Also read: [R Madhavan's Rocketry to premiere at Cannes during Film Festival, isn't part of the official list](#)**

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After saying no to Russian films, it declined accreditation to the country's journalists. This, though, comes with a rider. The denial is confined to

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A Festival Press release noted: "As we know, the Lithuanian moviemaker, Mantas Kvedaravičius, who directed *Barzakh* (2011), *Mariupolis* (2016) and *Parthenon* (2019), was captured and murdered by the Russian army in Mariupol in early April. His fiancée, Hanna Bilobrova, who was with him at the time, was able to bring back the footage filmed there and edited it with Mantas' editor Dounia Sichov. It was essential to show it, we added it."

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In 2016, Mantas documented the everyday life of Ukrainians as war clouds were beginning to gather over the small country. He returned to Mariupol in 2022 to capture the city as it lay under punishing siege.

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry announced the filmmaker's death on April 2, writing in a statement: "While (he was) trying to leave Mariupol, Russian occupiers killed Lithuanian director Mantas Kvedaravicius." The director was 45. A Lithuanian news agency, called 15min, reported that he was rushed to a hospital, but could not be saved.

"We lost a creator well known in Lithuania and in the whole world, who, until the very last moment, in spite of danger, worked in Russia-occupied Ukraine," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda said in a statement.

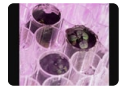
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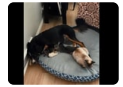
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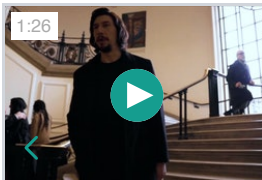
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A note at the beginning of Mariupolis 2 reads: "Do you know what is most extraordinary about Mariupol? None of it's inhabitants feared death, even when it was there. Death was already present and nobody wanted to die to no avail. People supported one another at the peril of their lives. They smoked and chatted outside, in spite of the bombs. There wasn't any money left and life had become too short to be remembered, so people

VIDEOS

were content with what they had and pushed their limits. There no longer was any past or future, no judging, no implying anything. It was heaven in hell, the delicate wings of the butterfly fluttering closer and closer to one another, the smell of death in its raw dimension. It was the heartbeat of life.”

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The Cannes Film Festival will run from May 17 to 28.

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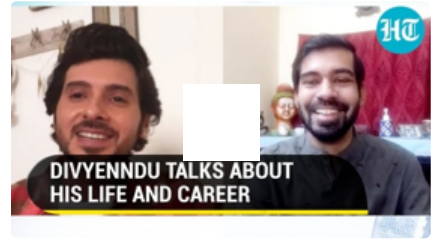
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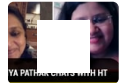
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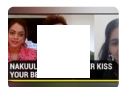
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